

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

CU-04 SAJ-01 /072 W

-----221232 128791 /20

R 221011Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9488

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4037

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: THANOM PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKHACHON LEFT THE MONKHOOD IN BANGKOK ON FEB 21, FIVE MONTHS AFTER HIS RETURN TO THAILAND. ON FEB 22 HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT HIS HOME AND COVERED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS.

2. RETURN TO POLITICS. HE WILL HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH POLITICS. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP BY GIVING ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT WHEN REQUESTED.

3. SEIZED PROPERTY. THE PROPERTY AND ASSETS SEIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER OCT, 1973, WERE OBTAINED HONESTLY. HIS WIFE AND HE SAVED WHATEVER THEY COULD DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.

4. FUTURE PLANS. HE WANTS TO LEAD THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY CITIZEN. HE PLANS TO WRITE HIS MEMOIRS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE BEHIND THE SCENES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OCT 14, 1973 UPRISING BUT HE WILL ALLOW SOME TIME TO PASS BEFORE PUBLISHING THE MEMOIRS.

5. OCT 1973 UPRISING. MANY GROUPS WITHOUT ANY GOOD WILL TOWARD NATION, RELIGION AND MONARCHY WERE INVOLVED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OCT 14 UPRISING. REPORTS THAT HE WAS ORDERED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WERE UNTRUE. HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WHEN THE KING EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS. THANOM OBLIQUELY HINTED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE OCT, 1973, UPRISING.

6. COL. NARONG KITTIKHACHON. COL NARONG (NOW LIVING IN

GERMANY) IS OCCUPIED WITH CERTAIN PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE RELATED TO THE SCHOOLING OF HIS CHILDREN IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THANOM DOES NOT THINK THAT NARONG WILL COME BACK TO STAY (LONG PAUSE) IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. REASON FOR RETURNING. THANOM REITERATED HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT HE RETURNED TO VISIT HIS AILING FATHER AND TO FULFILL A PLEDGE HE HAD MADE THAT HE WOULD BECOME A MONK DURING HIS FATHER'S LIFETIME. HE HAD NO RPT NO POLITICAL MOTIVES FOR RETURNING TO THAILAND.

8. OCT 6, 1976. HE SAID THAT HIS RETURN MAY HAVE BEEN A SMALL PART OF THE REASON FOR WHAT HAPPENED ON OCT 6, 1976. BUT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR OCT 6 WAS THE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE REALIZED THAT THE STUDENTS AND CERTAIN POLITICIANS WERE STAGING DEMONSTRATIONS FOR REASONS WHICH THREATENED NATIONAL UNITY AND SECURITY AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF NATION, RELIGION AND MONARCHY. THE PEOPLE VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED THESE STUDENTS AND POLITICIANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO04037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0160
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaatus.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fd47f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3269251
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THANOM PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH, (THANOM KITTIKHACHON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd47f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009